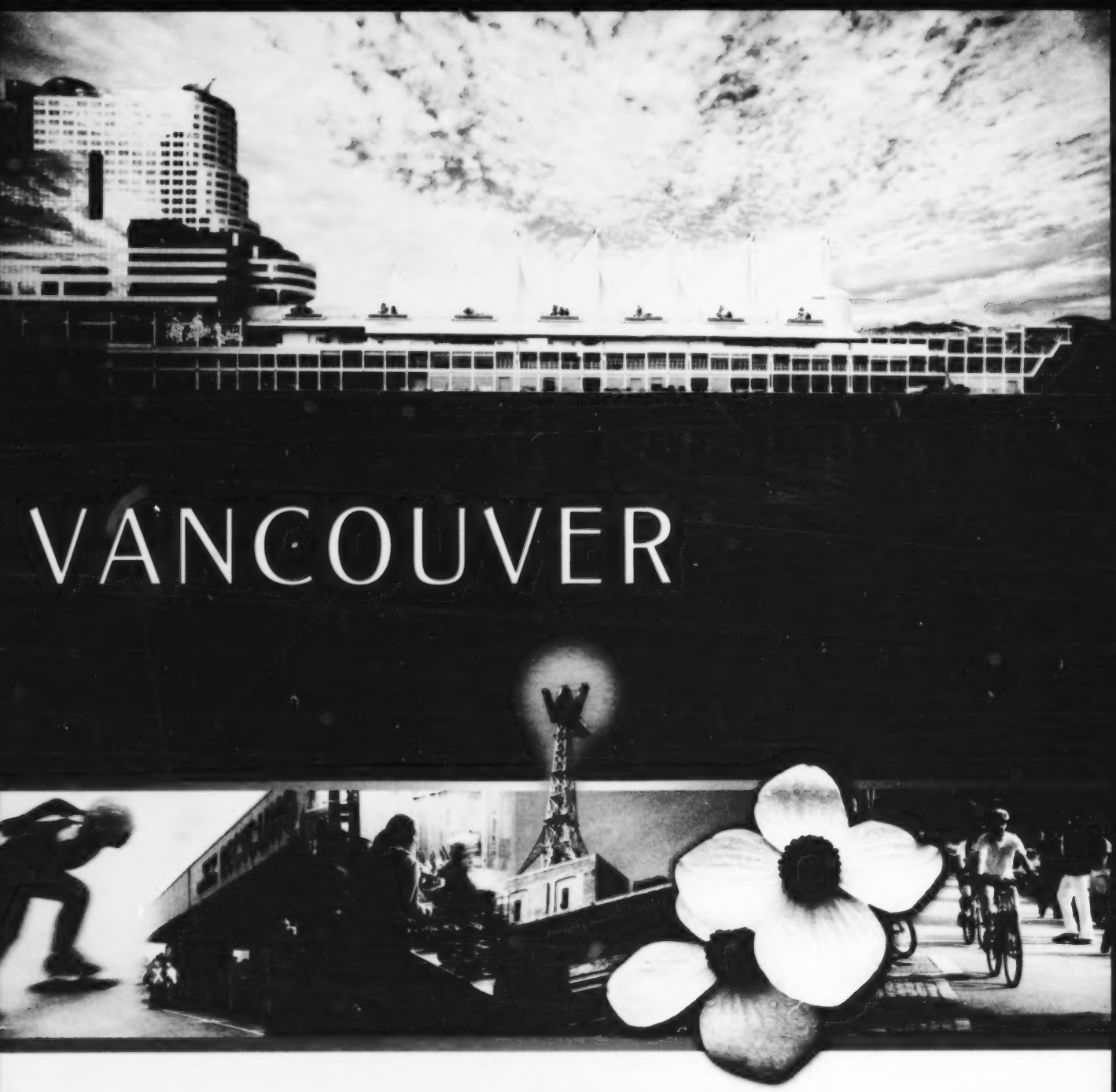


VANCOUVER

CITY OF VANCOUVER ✲ *2005 Annual Report*

VANCOUVER

City incorporated: 1886

Named for: Captain George Vancouver

Metro population: 2,155,880

City population: 583,267

Size: 113 square km

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I AM PLEASED to present to our citizens the 2005 annual report which highlights major accomplishments of the City of Vancouver over the past year.

This is one of the most exciting times in Vancouver's 120-year history. Not only are we getting ready to host the world during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, but our reputation on the world stage is growing every day. More and more, Vancouver is being recognized as not only a place of incredible natural beauty – something that we've always enjoyed – but also as a socially progressive and diverse city, and one of the most livable cities on the planet.

I often remind people that livability is affected by many different factors.

Livability is impacted by how inclusive a city is at ensuring all citizens can participate in their community, regardless of their socio-economic status, racial or ethnic origins, or even their physical abilities. Our funding of social housing, recreation and childcare programs, and arts and culture; our work with local developers to provide community amenities and ensure new buildings are designed to enable wheelchair access; and our efforts to extend our sidewalk network and put in more curb ramps, are all initiatives designed to make Vancouver open to everyone.

Livability is also directly related to the amount of green and park space available to residents; the number of trees planted on street boulevards; and how easy it is for people to get out of their cars and walk, cycle or take transit. On these measures, Vancouver is a leader in the Lower Mainland.

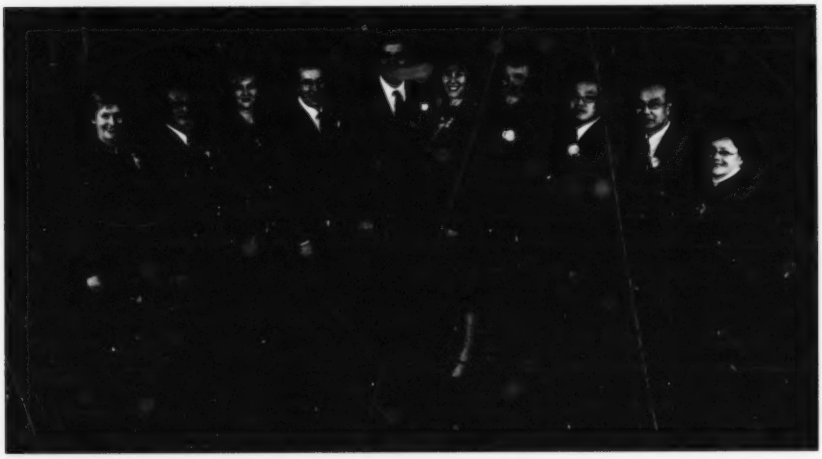
Livability is also the product of other factors. The ability of local merchants to supply goods and services to nearby residents; the design of new developments and how they interact with the streetscape; and the efforts of the City to engage residents in decision-making, are what make Vancouver such a success story.

Ultimately, a livable city is created, in no small part, by the many decisions made by the local government. Vancouver has been fortunate to elect municipal representatives who over the last number of decades have made decisions with a clear vision in mind. I am proud to carry on this important tradition. Our goal over the next few years will be to further enhance the quality of life that we enjoy in this great city.

I would like to thank all City Councillors for their dedication to making Vancouver an even better place to live, work, play and visit. I also wish to express gratitude to the 8,000 City employees who each day devote themselves to serving our residents. And lastly, I would like to thank you, the citizens of Vancouver, for helping to make this city what it is today, and what it will become tomorrow.

Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL



Left to right: Councillors Suzanne Anton, B.C. Lee, Elizabeth Ball, Peter Ladner, Tim Stevenson, Kim Capri, David Cadman, Raymond Louie, George Chow, and Heather Deal.

CITY OF VANCOUVER MISSION

To create a great city of communities which cares about its people, its environment and the opportunities to live, work and prosper.

OUR VALUES

Responsiveness: To listen to all the people we work with and serve and to act in a timely and sensitive way.

Excellence: To strive for the best results.

Fairness: To apply unbiased judgement and sensitivity.

Integrity: To be open and honest and to honour our commitments.

Leadership: To set examples that others will choose to follow.

Learning: To increase knowledge and understanding in the workplace and in the community and to grow through our successes and our mistakes.

OUR OBJECTIVES

To enhance community and individual well-being: social, economic, and physical.

To protect and improve the environment.

To provide quality service equitably.

To create a challenging, safe, healthy, and rewarding workplace.

To be fiscally responsible.

To create good government through public participation, internal improvement, and constructive external relations.

"Vancouver is lucky to have the great staff of civil servants that it does."

– Resident

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

AT ANY ONE time, the City of Vancouver is juggling hundreds of separate projects, and offering a vast array of programs and services. 2005 was no different and if anything, the workload for the City continued to climb as we started new projects designed to address emerging or long-standing needs (e.g., transportation, sustainability, arts and culture), while also preparing our city to host the 2010 Winter Games (e.g., venue development, fulfilling our inner-city inclusivity goals).

The thousands of tasks that City of Vancouver staff do on behalf of residents are not always obvious. Certainly, some activities are straightforward and very visible: picking up the garbage, paving the streets, and pruning the trees on the boulevard.

Other programs are not always associated with the work of the City: the childcare facility opened in the new condo development; the beautiful mural on the side of a building; the play at the local theatre.

And then there are those projects that are difficult and complex, and often involve balancing the interests of residents that may have very different opinions on how to address an issue.

Despite all these challenges, City of Vancouver staff continue to impress our citizens. We can see these views in some of the letters we've received, parts of which have been reproduced in this report. We can confirm their responses in the annual surveys we do that show that citizens continue to have high satisfaction levels for City servcies.

We also continued to be recognized by the national and international community with numerous awards in 2005. For example, the City was honoured with an international award for the depth and breadth of content on our main website, **vancouver.ca**. Our Park Board website was also honoured with an award. As well, in 2005 we were presented with recognition for our waterfront design; our landscaping in city parks; our Kingsway and Knight Housing Area Plan; and another prestigous United Nations award for our work on the Vancouver Agreement.

As a resident of Vancouver myself, I am not only proud to call this place home, but I am proud to lead the diverse men and women who work for this city. I would like to thank all of them for their valuable work, insight and contributions in 2005. It would simply not be possible to have a city as remarkable as Vancouver without a team of employees who are committed to the mission and goals of the City, and dedicate themselves to making these ideals a reality.

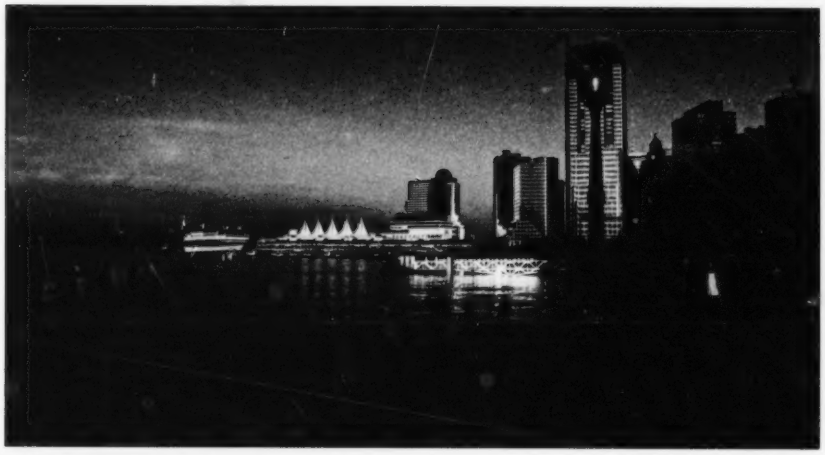
Judy Rogers

Judy Rogers, City Manager

OUR LIVABLE CITY

WHILE THE CITY of Vancouver is ranked every year as one of the best places to live in the world, we don't view this honour as an accomplishment. The growth and development of our city is an ongoing process. Every year there are new challenges to address, improvements to make, and new ideas to try.

In 2005, the City of Vancouver worked on building an even better city for our residents, businesses and visitors. Our goal was to continue to build a livable city of communities that cares about its people, its environment and the opportunities to live, work and prosper.

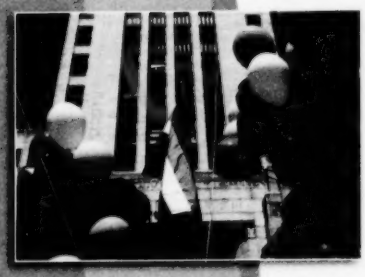


A CITY FOR EVERYONE

Vancouver is a city with many diverse communities that each have a need and a right to be included in the life of our remarkable city. For some groups it can be a greater challenge to feel at home. So in 2005, the City of Vancouver continued to implement policies, programs and services that would ensure all citizens – disabled residents and youth in our city, low-income families and our many different cultural groups – could fully participate in the benefits of living in this great city. Our contined ranking as the most livable city in North America is a testament to our ability to make Vancouver accessible and inclusive of everyone.

Accessibility

- More than 400 new curb ramps for wheelchairs and strollers were installed in 2005. The City has nearly 19,000 curb ramps on its streets, and has identified 8,000 more locations for them. About 100 locations are retrofitted every year in addition to those that are constructed as part of new sidewalk projects or reconstruction.
- The new Capital Plan passed in 2005 provides funding for 50 new pedestrian signals with audible signals for the visually impaired, and for the retrofit of about 20 existing signals with audible signals.
- In June, Council adopted the Enhanced Accessibility Guidelines to assist owners and applicants in designing and incorporating better access for people with disabilities in new or existing single and two-family homes through ramps, lifts or other means. Council also amended bylaws to provide staff and design professionals with more flexibility to consider relaxations to land use and zoning and development bylaws to assist in creating enhanced accessibility elements in yards, entrances and properties.



Housing

- The City adopted the Homeless Action Plan which lays out a 10-year program to address homelessness in Vancouver. The City works to reduce homelessness through community grants; developing social housing with partner organizations; providing relocation services for the homeless; providing shelter during extreme weather, and participating on the regional homeless committee.
- The City also adopted the Downtown Eastside Housing Plan which seeks to increase the range of housing choices and to create a mixed-income community while maintaining the 10,000 units of low-income housing in the area.
- The City acquired and renovated the Granville Residence to provide low-income housing in the Downtown South area. The 82 small suites opened to residents in June. The building now provides stable, clean, affordable housing with subsidized rent to its tenants, and is operated by the City's Non-Market Operations division as part of its portfolio of 10 directly managed residences. Fifty-two units were also created at 475 East Hastings for Downtown Eastside seniors who need support because of isolation or mental frailty.

Childcare

- The City continues to support childcare services in Vancouver through funding, initiatives and policy development. In 2005, 37 childcare projects were either in the planning, design, renovation or completion phase, and two playground redesign projects were started to serve our youngest residents and their families.
- Through agreements with new developments, we are developing a number of new City-owned childcare facilities, including:

  Bayshore (49 spaces) – Downtown
  Homer Street (69 spaces) – Downtown
  International Village (49 spaces) – Downtown
  CityGate II (24 spaces) – Main and Terminal
  1 Kingsway (49 spaces) – Mount Pleasant

Diversity

- The City continued to coordinate civic events to celebrate and honour our diverse communities in 2005, including International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Pride Day, Diwali, the Lunar New Year, and International Women's Day.
- The 10th annual Cultural Harmony Awards were presented to the Vancouver Native Health Society and community worker Sadia Ramirez for their significant and sustained commitment to the promotion of cultural harmony in the City of Vancouver.

Youth

- The City and its Youth Outreach Team hosted the first City of Vancouver Youth Awards in May 2005. The awards recognized the contributions of youth, adults, organizations and programs that promote meaningful youth participation in the city. In a lead up to the awards ceremony, a youth engagement fair featured a day of activities that brought together community organizations, schools and City programs to highlight their youth initiatives.
- The Youth Outreach Team worked with the City Elections Office during the 2005 municipal elections to emphasize the importance of voting to young people and to create opportunities for youth to be involved in the election process. Six young people were also hired to form a Youth Elections Troupe to do outreach through theatre.

A CITY ON THE MOVE

QUALITY OF LIFE surveys tell us that the world's best-rated cities have reliable, integrated transport systems that run efficiently and on time. Good transportation is a key component in creating a livable, sustainable and economically competitive city. We're generally surpassing our transportation targets, creating new transit plans, finishing exciting showcase projects, and supporting the construction of a new rapid transit line, while continuing to make road improvements.

Transportation Plan update

- In Vancouver, many more people are now walking, choosing cycling and taking transit than 10 years ago. The City's 1997 Transportation Plan set out goals to increase walking, cycling and transit use by 2021. Now, almost 10 years later, the City has already exceeded most of its goals. The biggest increases have been in walking and bike trips. With 65 per cent of all trips within the Downtown now taken on foot, walking has become the fastest growing way of getting around the Downtown. Proportionately, more people in Vancouver walk to get to work than in cities such as Montreal, Toronto and Portland. Biking in Vancouver has also doubled in the past decade, with more than 50,000 trips a day, while transit trips have increased by 20 per cent.
- Investments in such areas as improving pedestrian and bike access, transit expansion and Greenway development, along with land use planning that supports high-density neighbourhoods near work and shopping, appear to be paying off.

Vancouver/UBC Area Transit Plan

- In 2005, the City along with TransLink and the University of B.C completed the Vancouver/UBC Area Transit Plan, which identifies transit needs and priorities over the next five years. With feedback from extensive open houses and workshops, the plan calls for: more frequent bus service and new routes in key areas; improvements to Downtown streets to provide more transit services; a new B-Line rapid bus service on Hastings Street and 41st Avenue; and new cross-town services along East 33rd Avenue, West 16th Avenue, Great Northern Way, and 2nd and 4th Avenue.

"I want to say a sincere thank you to the crew working on my street... I truly appreciate what they did for us and for all the work they've been doing around the city."

– Resident

Main Street Transportation Showcase

- This $7.7-million upgrade to Main Street, part of Transport Canada's Urban Transportation Showcase, began in 2005 and will be finished by late 2006. Bus and pedestrian bulges at 18 intersections will create safer pedestrian crossings and will allow for street art. Following new sewer and watermain work, 350 new trees will provide the final touches to the street's makeover.

Clark Knight Corridor Plan

- A comprehensive plan to improve safety, livability and efficiency along the Clark Drive and Knight Street corridor was completed and approved by City Council in 2005. This vital transportation corridor is the most heavily used truck route in the city and a key connector between Vancouver, its suburbs and the United States. It also runs through residential neighbourhoods and is home to several schools, parks, a community centre and commercial areas. Work is starting on improvements such as left-turn bays, new bikeways and pedestrian safety measures.

Canada Line

- Along with a new name (it was called the RAV Line), the Canada Line rapid transit project moved from planning and design to construction in 2005. The City gave advice on station location and design and helped address other issues such as: neighbourhood traffic; merchant concerns; utility relocation; the Cambie Heritage Boulevard; and public consultations on neighbourhood improvements near future stations.

Major roadwork

In 2005, the City continued to invest in our infrastructure both on and below the road surface. Major Engineering projects, as highlighted on the Road Ahead (**roadahead.ca**)webpage, included:

- East 12th Avenue from Fraser Street to Lakewood: This $4-million project involved pavement resurfacing and the replacement of a 93-year-old sewer main and a 75-year-old leaking water main. Crews finished two weeks early following the 13-week closure of East 12th Avenue.
- Granville Street from Broadway to the Arthur Laing Bridge: This $3.8-million project replaced a 100-year-old water main between 33rd and 37th Avenue, 90 water connections, 20 street drains, 62 wheelchair ramps, and pavement and lane lines.
- Clark Drive between Broadway and East 6th Avenue (Great Northern Way): Clark Drive was widened to install a left-turn bay and put in fresh pavement. The left-turn bay in this $1.7-million project improves road safety and provides better access to Vancouver Community College and the new VCC – Clark SkyTrain Station.
- Burrard Street between Pacific Boulevard to Cordova Street and the Cornwall intersection: This stretch of Burrard now has separated sewers, five new reinforced bus stop areas, renewed water connections, reconstructed curbs and sidewalks, and a new bike lane. The project cost $1.5 million.

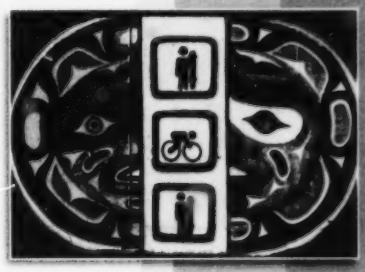
Cycling in the city

- In 2005, the City celebrated Bike Month in June by officially opening six new bike routes: Kent Avenue, Homer Street, Gladstone Street, Hornby Street, 10th Avenue, and Beatty Street. Bikeways provide safer, more direct routes for cyclists and include features such as push button traffic signals; painted areas on roads that increase the visibility of cyclists and help them make safer turns or crossings; and various traffic calming measures.
- The City published a new detailed map showing the bicycle routes in the city. The wallet-sized portable maps were available at City Hall, community centres, libraries, and bicycle stores, and may be downloaded online at **vancouver.ca/cycling**.

New sidewalks

- Council established new goals and increased the budget for sidewalk construction in 2005. The aim is for all sidewalks on bus routes to be completed by the end of 2007, and all sidewalks on arterial streets by 2009.
- More than 3,700 lineal metres of new sidewalks at 26 locations were installed in 2005. Currently, 2,000 kilometres of sidewalks, or 80 per cent of the sidewalk system, are in place in the City of Vancouver.
- Council also reduced the property owners' share of the cost of new sidewalk construction from 50 to about 20 per cent to lessen the burden on property owners.

A CITY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS



Cleaner streets

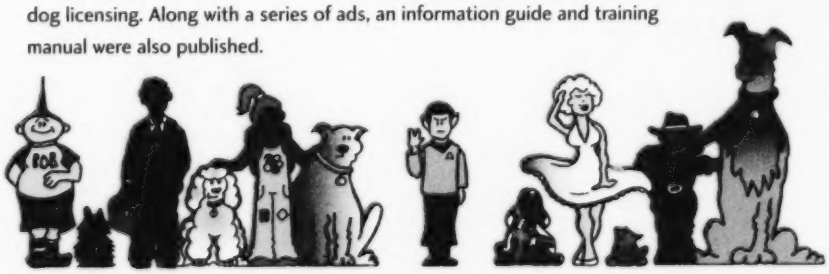
- In November, after a successful trial, the City added recycling racks to 900 new litter containers on the streets. The racks are designed to hold a row of beverage containers and will reduce the number of containers going into the landfill, keep litter containers clean, and help those who collect beverage containers to have easier access.
- In 2005, three daily commuter papers hit Vancouver and brought more than 3,000 new newspaper boxes onto the sidewalks. City staff worked to remove boxes that were not authorized and placed a moratorium on new newsboxes. The City also initiated a review of our newsbox policy with industry and community stakeholders to develop new rules to control the number and locations of newsboxes.
- The City's Graffiti Management Program helped Business Improvement Areas reduce graffiti by 75 per cent since the program began. As well, in 2005, the program hosted a competition in which 30 painters, including several of the best graffiti artists in Canada, used the Granville Bridge offramp as their canvas while vying for cash prizes. The competition was part of the program's public mural initiative which has produced more than 150 murals around Vancouver in the past few years.
- In 2005, the City launched its new automated garbage collection system, which uses trucks equipped with mechanical arms to pick up specially designed containers. The new system will help reduce injuries to workers, and provide residents with durable, tidier containers, and a choice of container sizes. City staff created the Plan for the Can public education campaign to help citizens choose containers and learn how to set them out properly.

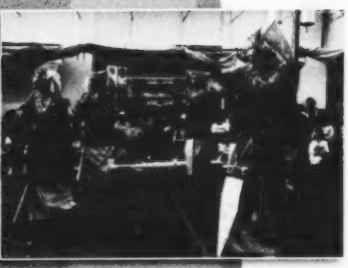
Greener streets

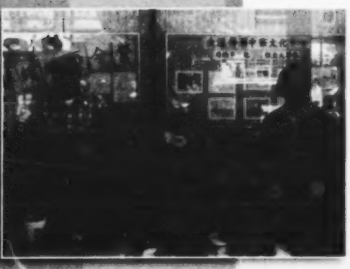
- New Greenways were designed and constructed at Vanness and Nanaimo Street, and at East 43rd Avenue and Clarendon Street. Greenways expand opportunities for urban recreation, provide alternate ways to move through the city and enhance the streetscape.
- The Green Streets program encourages and supports residents in beautifying their neighbourhoods by adopting and maintaining street gardens in traffic circles and corner bulges. In 2005, the program added 34 gardens to city streets.

Improving communities

- Community Visions were approved in 2005 for the Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaughnessy and Riley Park/South Cambie neighbourhoods. Visions are official long-range plans for an area that outline the directions, needs and aspirations identified when communities work with City staff on the visioning process.
- Vancouver's Animal Control Bylaw, first drafted in the 1950s, was updated to deal with issues arising from the now more than 50,000 dogs in the city. The new bylaws will help improve dog owner responsibility and accountability (e.g., humane living conditions, control of vicious dogs, or unsafe dog behaviour). Fines and penalties were increased to reinforce responsible dog ownership. The City also unveiled the whimsical *Rex in the City* awareness campaign to educate local dog owners on responsible dog ownership, and to emphasize the importance of dog licensing. Along with a series of ads, an information guide and training manual were also published.







A COMMUNITY BEING REVITALIZED

FOR THE PAST several years, the City has been working hard on revitalizing the Downtown Eastside and its surrounding communities, which include distinct neighbourhoods and historic areas such as Chinatown and Gastown. The road to revitalization is one that has many stops along the way. Along with our government and community partners, we've been working on initiatives for positive social, economic and physical change in the area.

Chinatown Revitalization Program

The revitalization of the historic Chinatown neighbourhood made further strides in 2005.

- In February, Council approved a three-year action plan for Phase II of the Chinatown Revitalization Program, including development of a Chinatown Community Plan.
- In July, the City and the Chinese Canadian Historic Society released the Society Buildings Study. The study is part of the program's strategy to enhance Chinatown's cultural legacy while facilitating economic development. It was shared with the community during the Chinatown Festival in August as part of the ongoing outreach work.
- The City initiated the design work for the second phase of improvements at the Dr. Sun Yat-sen courtyard, which will help upgrade Chinatown's physical environment and enhance opportunities for community events in the courtyard.
- The City purchased the Chinatown Parkade on Keefer Street to maintain parking supply in Chinatown.
- Revitalization efforts in Chinatown have also started to raise development interests, bringing new investments into the area and sparking economic revitalization. In 2005, two new commercial-residential mixed-use projects were underway.
- The City continues to collaborate with the community, including the Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee and many other community groups, on various revitalization initiatives and issues.

Vancouver Agreement

The Vancouver Agreement is the innovative urban development initiative through which the federal, provincial and municipal governments collaborate and coordinate resources to make the city a healthy, safe and sustainable place for everyone. The initiative began in 2000 with a special focus on the Downtown Eastside, the city's poorest neighbourhood.

- The first phase of the Agreement was from 2000-2005. In April 2005, it was renewed for a second five-year term extending until March 31, 2010. The Vancouver Agreement continues to focus on the Downtown Eastside and two additional priorities have been identified: the 2010 Inner City Inclusivity Initiative (ICI) and the Accessible/Inclusive Cities and Communities Project. The ICI is a commitment from the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee and its government partners for specific goals and legacies such as helping inner-city neighbourhoods benefit from the Games through job training, employment and business opportunities, improved housing, access to sports and culture, and participation in Olympic preparations and decision-making. The first ICI update was released in February to coincide with a community meeting on the commitments. Regular community meetings and updates are planned in the lead up to the 2010 Winter Games.
- The Vancouver Agreement is also a partner in the Accessible/Inclusive Cities and Communities Project with the 2010 Legacies Now Society. The Vancouver Agreement funded the project's first phase. In March 2006, the project released a handbook entitled *Measuring Up: Workbook, Tools and Resources for Accessibility and Inclusion.*

Carrall Street Greenway

The Carrall Street Greenway is a key route through the city that will link north False Creek with the Burrard Inlet, completing a seawall loop around Downtown and Stanley Park, and connecting a series of sites in Gastown, the Downtown Eastside and Chinatown. Not only will it provide pedestrian and cyclist-friendly corridors, but it is an important community-building and economic-revitalization initiative for this area. In 2005:

- Council approved the concept design, and $5 million was allocated for construction.
- The City initiated several studies and projects that will contribute to the Greenway development, including the Carrall Public Art Plan, Chinatown Storyscapes, Sustainability Forum and public realm improvements at Suzhou Alley.
- The City partnered with the Park Board on the redesign of Pigeon Park, and the designs were shared with the community at a public open house in December.
- A new website is being developed (**vancouver.ca/carrall**) to better promote and communicate the project to the public.
- New development interests are emerging along the Greenway, including plans for renovating the Alhambra Hotel (2 Water Street), the Wing Sang building (51 East Pender Street), the Chinese Freemasons building (5 West Pender Street) and the Merchants Bank (1 West Hastings Street).

"The great thing about living in Vancouver is the quick, responsive, and professional service we get, almost without exception, from people who work for the City."

– Resident

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TODAY

YEARS OF PLANNING are becoming reality as some of the largest projects in which Vancouver has ever been involved are now under construction. These new developments will help serve our growing population by creating infrastructure and communities that are sustainable and livable. Some will also play key roles in the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Toward 2010

The official countdown to the 2010 Winter Games has begun. The years of dreaming and planning have grown into the reality that in four years, Vancouver will host one of the largest, most prestigious gatherings of sport, culture and people in the world. We've entered an exciting period where we're putting in place the infrastructure needed; making plans for running a smooth, successful Games; and getting citizens involved to celebrate and enjoy this important time in our city's history.

Mayor brings home Olympic Flag

- Mayor Sam Sullivan accepted both the Olympic and Paralympic Flags in Torino, Italy at the Closing Ceremony of the 2006 Winter Games on behalf of the citizens of Vancouver. During the Mayor's visit, he received international media attention as the first quadriplegic mayor to accept the flags.

Draft strategic plan

- The first version of the City's strategic plan for the 2010 Winter Games has been received by City Council. The plan sets out a high-level framework for the scope and scale of the work to be undertaken by the City to meet its obligations as Host City, and ways to best leverage the opportunities the Games present.

New headquarters

- The Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) and the City's Olympic Operations division moved into a new headquarters in East Vancouver. The City purchased two new buildings at 3585 Graveley Street and 1570 Kootenay Street for investment purposes and leased them to VANOC until the completion of the 2010 Winter Games. The City's Olympic Operations staff will occupy space on one floor of the Graveley Street office along with VANOC's other government partners.

Southeast False Creek – Olympic Village

Southeast False Creek (SEFC) will be a model sustainable community built on the last remaining tract of undeveloped waterfront land near downtown Vancouver. The SEFC site – which is bound by Cambie Bridge on the west, Main Street on the east, and 2nd Avenue to the south – comprises 32 hectares (80 acres) of which approximately 20 hectares (50 acres) is owned by the City. A portion of the City-owned lands is being developed now and will be used as Vancouver's Olympic Village in 2010. A substantial amount of work got underway in 2005:

- The City established the Southeast False Creek and Olympic Village Project Office to manage the development of the City lands in SEFC.
- Various environmental approvals for land and shoreline work were completed.
- A consultant team was assembled to finish the design for the SEFC waterfront and for the infrastructure and servicing required for the Olympic Village.
- A design team was hired for the design of the public realm aspects of the project.
- Site preparation began, and included work such as the removal and disposal of pilings and collapsed decking at the inlet near the Salt Building.
- Early in 2006, Vancouver City Council selected Vancouver-based Millennium Properties to design and construct all buildings in the Olympic Village.

Pacific Coliseum upgrade

- The $23-million upgrade to the Pacific Coliseum for the 2010 Winter Games began with the replacement of 16,000 seats. The Pacific Coliseum will be the site of the figure skating and short-track speed skating competitions.

Hillcrest Curling venue

- In October 2005, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved a revised Master Plan for the Riley, Hillcrest and Nat Bailey Stadium Parks, where the curling venue will be located. After the 2010 Winter Games, the curling venue will be converted to include a new community centre, ice rink, aquatic centre, curling club and library.
- In January 2006, the City approved the rezoning of the parks to CD-1 to allow for construction of the Olympic curling/legacy building and the new aquatic centre. The Park Board held a public open house on March 8, 2006 at the Riley Park Community Centre to provide information to the public about the new curling venue.

Killarney and Trout Lake rinks

- Ice rinks at both Killarney and Trout Lake Community Centres will be renovated and used as practice venues during the 2010 Winter Games. Following the Games, the rinks will be converted for community use. Vancouver voters approved borrowing funds for the project as part of the Capital Plan questions in the municipal election on November 19, 2005.

Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre

- Through a partnership with the provincial and federal governments and Tourism Vancouver, the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre is being expanded to triple the convention space. The site will serve as the international media and broadcast centre for the 2010 Winter Games.
- In 2005, the expansion went through a number of milestones. The development permit application was approved in June, and design development for the public realm – seawall, Thurlow public plaza, connections to Harbour Green Park – is complete. Construction of the City-owned infrastructure at the VCEC is near complete, including new water, sewer and storm water systems on the 1000-block Waterfront Road; a 103-space parkade; and the Canada Place viaduct structure.

Olympic Flag handover celebration events

With the help of funding from the Union of B.C. Municipalities' Community Tourism Program, the City hosted a successful 10-day celebration for its residents and visitors to mark the occasion of the handover of the Olympic Flag from the City of Torino to the City of Vancouver.

- In honour of the Celebration Week, the City unveiled new "Welcome to Vancouver" signs to greet residents and visitors at five key entrances to the city. The new welcome signs replace ones that were installed for Expo 86 and the city's 1986 centennial.
- New banner brackets and more than 900 Olympic-themed banners were installed along 11 of Vancouver's streets in February 2006. These streets were selected because of their proximity to future Olympic venues. The Olympic-themed banners will go up every year for six weeks in February/March leading up to 2010.
- The City held a street party at Library Square on February 26, 2006. A giant screen showing highlights of the Closing Ceremony was the main attraction at the event, which also featured live entertainment, an Inukshuk building workshop, and winter sport demonstrations.

Revenue for development and building activity: $23,152,026 (9.05% increase over 2004)

Development permits issued: 590

Enquiry Centre – customers served: 17,495

One and two-family dwellings – permits issued: 780

Phone centre calls: 37,199

Trades permits issued: 21,287

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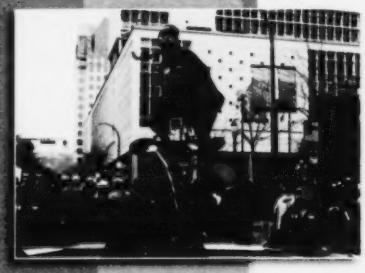
- The Mayor joined VANOC and government partners at a special groundbreaking ceremony on March 10 for the future Vancouver Olympic Village in Southeast False Creek.

WORKING WITH 2010 LEGACIES NOW

2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society that works with community and non-government organizations, the private sector, and all levels of government including the City of Vancouver to develop sustainable legacies in sport and recreation. It actively assists people all over Vancouver and the rest of the province to discover and create unique programs and opportunities in sport, recreation, volunteerism, literacy, arts and culture.

- **In 2005, 2010 Legacies Now and the B.C. Ministry of Education launched the Explorations Summer Camps program, and made it possible for 1,245 kids in Vancouver to participate in 42 camps.**
- **For the third annual Spirit of 2010 Hockey Tournament, 235 Vancouver youth took part as more than 35,000 young players from across B.C. played in 173 local tournaments to promote healthy living and amateur sport through minor hockey.**
- **A day-long Aboriginal Youth Olympic Sports Challenge was held in October, providing the young athletes with inspiration, competition and fun.**
- **During the 2005 spring break, 2010 Legacies Now and PacificSport visited Vancouver with the Playground to Podium Sport Talent Search and met with young athletes who may have the potential to excel in Olympic and Paralympic winter sports.**
- **Ten schools in Vancouver participated in SportFit, a program designed for students in Grades 4 to 7 to introduce them to Olympic sports.**
- **The 2010 Women's Sport Inclusion Strategy Leadership Conference was held in Vancouver in January and provided 25 women from around B.C. and the Yukon with training on leadership skills in the field of sport and physical activity.**
- **The Hosting BC program, which is designed to provide funding to organizations in B.C. interested in staging sporting events, provided more than $150,000 in investments for 10 different events or bids for events in 2005.**
- **Arts Now, a division of 2010 Legacies Now, invested more than $700,000 in 60 arts organizations in Vancouver in 2005.**



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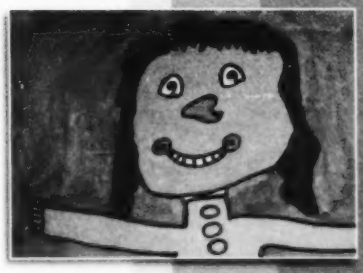
MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CITY



Woodward's

The City and its developer team (Westbank Projects/Peterson Investment Group with Henriquez Partners as architects) made progress in 2005 on work to revitalize the historic Woodward's building.

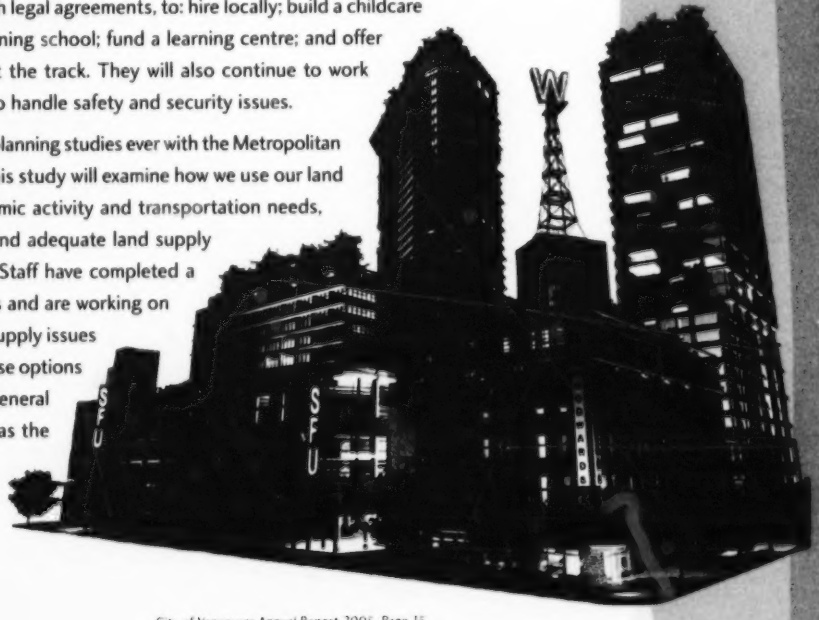
- Early in 2005, the Portland Hotel Society and Affordable Housing were selected to operate the 200 units of non-market housing that will be located in the new Woodward's.
- In March 2005, Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts announced its intentions to move into Woodward's pending budget approval of their final design.
- The City formed the Woodward's Community Advisory Committee, an association of local residents and business owners charged with the task of project oversight throughout the detailed design of the project.
- In July, soil remediation began on the site. As well, the City commenced site utility and project infrastructure work.
- Later in the year, the developer team presented to Council and the public their ideas for the design and layout of the site.

Other projects

- In 2005, planning continued in East Fraserlands, with a vision to turn this 126-acre industrial site in southeast Vancouver into a new, sustainable riverfront community with parks, a community centre, schools, diverse housing, and a commercial 'high street'. Through ongoing consultation with City staff and the community, the developers submitted an application for an Official Development Plan. City staff will continue to work with the developers and the community to realize the vision for East Fraserlands over the next 25 years.
- Excavation is complete on the 1 Kingsway project, a neighbourhood facility that will bring together a new community centre, library, child development facility and market housing. It is scheduled to open in the fall of 2007.
- In 2005, the City, as the owner of the Hastings Racecourse site, accepted a public benefit offering from Hastings Entertainment Inc. (HEI) that will provide benefits to the community. HEI is the operator of the racetrack and slot machines. Before a development permit can be issued by the City, HEI will commit, through legal agreements, to: hire locally; build a childcare facility; create a thoroughbred groom training school; fund a learning centre; and offer free movie nights and community days at the track. They will also continue to work cooperatively with the Vancouver Police to handle safety and security issues.
- The City started one of its most important planning studies ever with the Metropolitan Core Jobs and Economy Land Use Plan. This study will examine how we use our land to accommodate business growth, economic activity and transportation needs, and ensure we have appropriate zoning and adequate land supply for future jobs and services in the Core. Staff have completed a review of the current economy and trends and are working on future projections. This will identify land-supply issues that need to be addressed, and then land-use options to address them. Stakeholders and the general public are being invited to provide input as the study progresses. For more information: **vancouver.ca/corejobs**

"Even though property taxes have increased in the City over the past few years, I strongly believe that we receive good value for our tax dollars."

– Resident



TREASURING OUR PAST

MUCH OF THE focus of a young city, like Vancouver, is on growing and moving forward. However, we realize that on our journey into the future, we also have to look after our past. The story of our city can be told through the papers, artifacts and buildings of our predecessors, which offer valuable insights into Vancouver. Through our Archives and Heritage Group, we try to preserve our city's history so we can remember and learn from the pioneers who shaped Vancouver.

- The four neon clocks that grace the top of Vancouver City Hall were restored for the first time since they were installed in 1936. A new motordrive system and pilot clock were installed to help all four sides keep accurate, synchronized time, and the dial hands were repainted. City Hall is a designated heritage building in an Art Deco styling, and opened in December 1936.
- In September 2005, the City acquired the records of Louis Denison Taylor (1857-1946), a former Vancouver mayor and journalist. The collection contains the private records of this colourful, controversial man who was a voice for reform and advocated progressive ideas such as an eight-hour work day, universal suffrage for women, land-based property taxation and regional cooperation. This unique and important acquisition helps document Vancouver's history. The collection was taken to California by Denison's family after his death, and the City Archives arranged for the acquisition through Taylor's grandson. Currently, Archives staff are processing and cataloguing the collection which includes correspondence, notes, records, photographs and personal effects, and hope to make the records available for research by 2007.
- In 2005, 21 sites were protected through Council approved bylaws (Heritage Revitalization Agreements or Designations).
- The City's Heritage Group helped raised public awareness of the heritage value of 14 recently protected buildings by installing bronze plaques with text that details the history of the building.
- The City of Vancouver's 27th annual Heritage Awards were handed out to individuals and organizations whose efforts have furthered the goal of heritage conservation in the City.
- Interubran car 1207, now used on Vancouver's Downtown Historic Railway, turned 100 in June. Car 1207 was built in 1905 and was one of three wooden cars built for the electric interurban line that ran from Vancouver to New Westminster and Richmond until 1958. Car 1207 began running again in 1996 between Granville Island and Science World on weekends from May to October.

A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE CITY

AS WE EXPAND and change, the City of Vancouver is careful to consider the environmental footprint we are leaving on the world. Through our business practices, initiatives and day-to-day work, we seek out ways we can make a cleaner, greener, healthier city.

- In 2005, the Equipment Services Branch negotiated a three-year contract with the Ford Motor Corporation and Fuel Cells Canada to test a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle in real-world conditions. It's the first fleet demonstration of fuel cell vehicles in Canada. Our participation will provide valuable information on performance, durability, and reliability of these alternative fuel cars.
- Vancouver has replaced the regular diesel fuel used in its fleet vehicles with Biodiesel B5 (5 per cent bio-product) and B20 (20 per cent bio-product) blends. Biodiesel is a renewable resource that produces fewer greenhouse gases and reduces emissions.
- The City has been right-sizing its vehicle fleet, making sure each vehicle is the best size for the job. Larger cars have been regularly replaced with SmartCars, which increase fuel efficiency by about 30 per cent and can cost up to $8,000 less.
- The City's Sustainability Group launched the One Day initiative, a community-wide program that encourages everyone to take small steps to reduce energy use. One Day has been working with youth and community groups, businesses, schools, workplaces, shops and neighbourhoods to build the movement from the ground up. It is supported by a website at **onedayvancouver.ca** which offers ideas and tips on greener living. The Sustainability Group also hosted a successful Car Free Day event in September.
- Old concrete and asphalt from streets being reconstructed are being crushed to produce recycled gravel that can be reused on City construction projects. For 2005, approximately 80,000 tonnes (over 6,000 dump truck loads) were recycled. Some of the old asphalt is reused as part of new pavement. The City also recycled almost 12,000 tonnes (1,000 dump truck loads) of ground-up pavement. The Sewers branch has been reusing excavated soil and rubble to refill trenches. By using native materials for backfill, the City reduces the waste going to the landfill, and cuts down on truck trips for hauling.
- Still Creek, one of two remaining visible streams in urban Vancouver, is being revitalized through a 10-year project. The east Vancouver creek had been mostly covered up through urbanization, creating flooding issues, poor water quality, degraded wildlife habitat and limited recreational opportunities. The first enhancement project was completed in October after the City naturalized a 70-metre section by removing concrete banks and restoring native plants. This project transformed the area into an urban oasis with a public viewing platform and a bird habitat. Similar projects will be completed in the future.
- All of the 225 non-ad bus shelters installed in Vancouver have been equipped with solar-LED lighting systems. The system internally illuminates the street location nameplates on each shelter for easy identification and improves safety with ambient light.

A CREATIVE CITY

In 2005, Vancouver Civic Theatres hosted more than:

500 performances

650,000 patrons

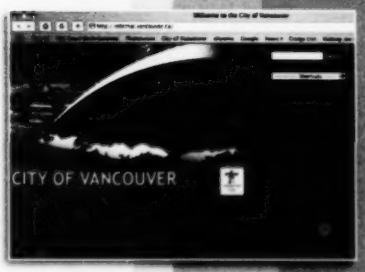
BEING A "creative city" is more than just a clever title. It means the City of Vancouver has a Council and staff who value its creative sector and look for ways to support and further artistic and cultural goals. The City recognizes and appreciates the role the arts community plays socially and economically in Vancouver.

- Two City Councillors and 15 community and staff representatives were selected for the Creative City Task Force, which reviews the City's roles and responsibilities in cultural services, and identifies strategic goals, directions and priorities.
- In March, Council approved a $1-million increase to the cultural budget. Among the Task Force's first initiatives was a community consultation process to review strategic investment options for the increase. Approximately 280 additional grants were accepted and evaluated in the fall of 2005, with Council approving $950,000 in supplemental grants recommended through an independent adjudication process.
- The new Vancouver International Film Centre opened in downtown Vancouver. The Centre was created through the City's Amenity Bonusing Program, where zoning incentives are leveraged to acquire cultural space as public amenities. Programs like this allow the City to work with private developers to create affordable cultural or social service facilities at no cost to taxpayers.
- An expansion of the Orpheum stage and addition of a rehearsal hall studio theatre and a school of music were approved for a new development at 819 Seymour Street under a similar amenity program.
- Six new works of public art were unveiled in 2005. They include: Diana Thater's light work at the Shaw Tower, a thin, subtly changing shaft of LED light that runs the length of the downtown building; Ken Lum's *Tale of Two Children*, a photograph and text piece in Strathcona; the photo-based Aperture Project at Vancouver Public Library; a large jade abacus in Chinatown by sculptor Gwen Boyle; Gisele Amantea's *Red Horizontal*, a red ribbon of photographs on a bench in False Creek; and Jill Anholt's *Moving Pictures*, real-time images projected at the corner of the new Film Centre.
- In the summer of 2005, two projects debuted under the City-sponsored Storyscapes, an aboriginal storytelling project that helps our aboriginal communities share their stories in various mediums. The Storyscapes Gastown project is a partnership between our Social Planning department, the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education and Knowledgeable Aboriginal Youth Association to train aboriginal youth to gather stories of this neighbourhood. The Storyscapes Kitsilano project worked with the Kitsilano Memories project to support youth and their communities to gather the stories and images of that area.
- Vancouver's streets welcomed a host of parades in 2005 for events such as Lunar New Year, St. Patrick's Day, Vasaikhi, Pride Day, and the Grey Cup.
- The City's Mountain View Cemetery engaged its first artist in residence, Paula Jardine, the former artistic director of the Public Dreams Society. The residency was part of the overall redevelopment of the cemetery, and the effort to revive and develop its role in the community. In a prelude to Hallowe'en, Ms. Jardine led public workshops in making memorial lanterns, shrines, and prayer flags. Some of these creations were displayed during the All Souls event held at Mountain View, a contemplative social event to honour the dead.

MAKING IT YOUR CITY

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT can sometimes be a mystery to people even though it's the level of government that most affects their day-to-day lives. At the City of Vancouver, we want our citizens to be informed and involved in the many initiatives we undertake, and use a variety of methods to do that.

- For the 2005 civic election, the City carried out a broad communications campaign designed to encourage citizens to vote. We also provided improved access to nomination documents and campaign disclosures by posting them online. A candidate profiles booklet was introduced. The printed version was distributed to libraries, community centres and civic facilities and the information was available online.
- The City advertises broadly through local papers and radio ads to inform residents of important city-wide news or events. All production is done in house for substantial savings to our taxpayers. In 2005, 237 separate print ads were placed in local news papers, with a total of 862 insertions overall.
- **Vancouver.ca** is the City's award-winning comprehensive website offering regularly updated information from all departments on everything from public meetings and open houses to background reports and Council agendas. Council meetings can also be viewed live online and are later archived for easy access, so that the public can watch the debates and how decisions are made.
- The Corporate Communications Division produces news releases which are available online and through an e-mail listserv. It also publishes *Citynews*, a semi-annual newsletter that goes out to all property owners. In 2005, 187 different releases and media advisories were distributed.
- GVTV, the City's video news magazine program, continues to offer relevant and interesting stories about the people, places and issues that affect Vancouver. New episodes air bi-weekly on Shaw Cable, and all stories are available online at **gvtv.ca**. In 2005, 30 new stories and four public service annoucements were produced.
- Human Resource Services started a new recruitment and marketing campaign entitled *Powered by Innovation*. The colourful attractive design and new messaging began appearing on job ads, the website, and various materials used for job fairs and recruitment programs, highlighting the City of Vancouver as an innovative employer of choice.



"I think the program (GVTV) is very good. You do an excellent job of spotlighting things... that I never really realized the City was doing."

– Resident

VANCOUVER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Pieces of apparatus: *128*

Total uniformed personnel: *790*

Total civilian personnel: *31*

Medical response percentage of all calls: *75%*

VANCOUVER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (VFRS) is dedicated to the protection of lives, property, and the environment by responding to fire, medical calls, hazardous materials incidents, and building inspections. It's also committed to being a part of the community. VFRS works closely with the public on special events and also runs an Emergency Preparedness office that not only teaches through classroom work but assists neighbourhoods with emergency preparedness procedures.

Fire Operations

- VFRS is very involved with the 2010 Winter Games and planning is under way to ensure a high-level of safety for citizens and visitors alike.
- VFRS is participating in the construction review of Canada Line rapid transit project and chairs the Integrated Fire Services Committee.

Annual accomplishments

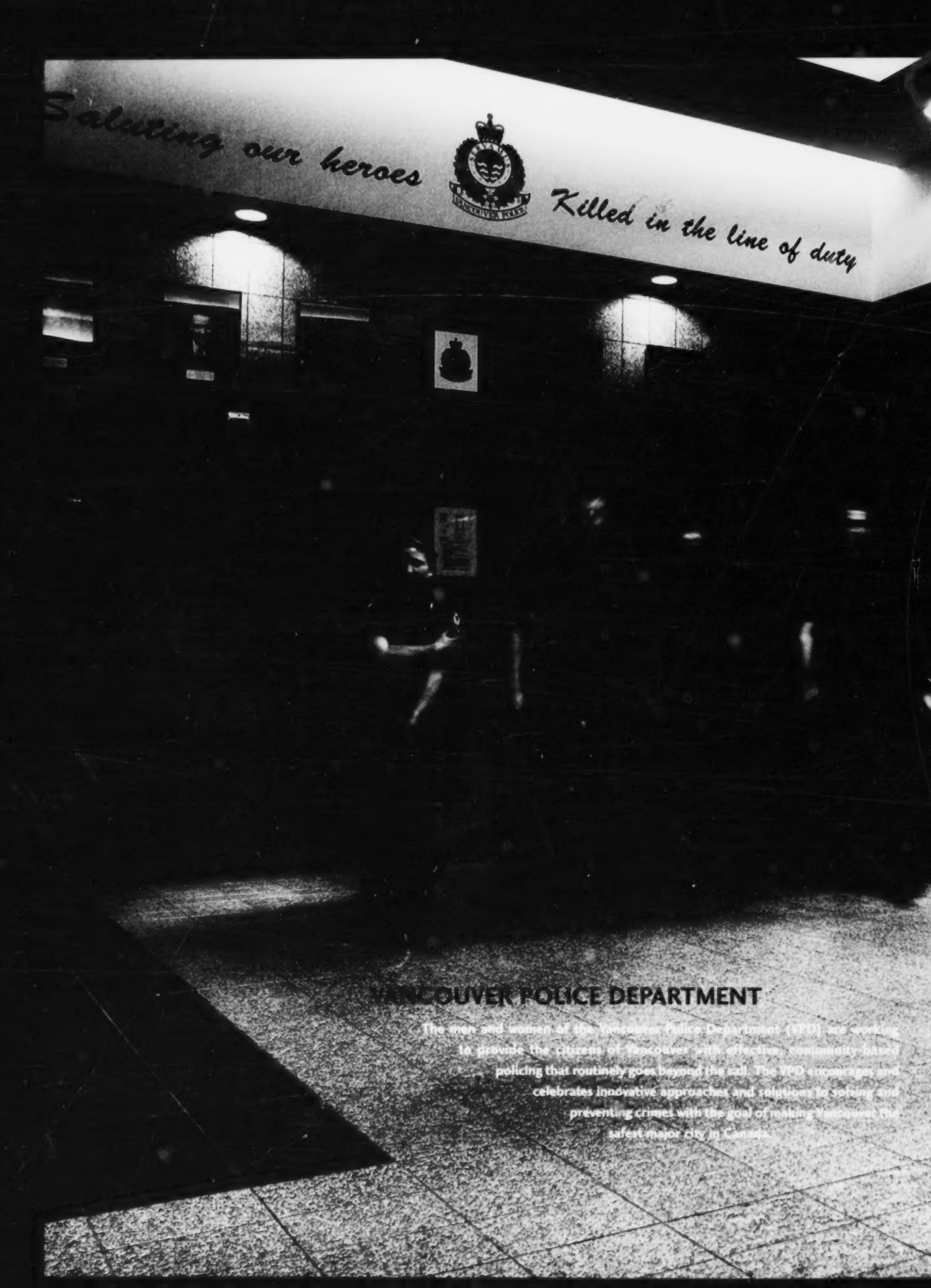
- VFRS attended 45,985 incidents in 2005, a 23 per cent increase over the previous year. Members also conducted 12,750 inspections and dismantled 406 marijuana grow operations.
- The Fleet Maintenance Division conducted 54 commercial truck inspections; 23 aerial truck non-destructive tests; maintained and inspected 51 light-duty vehicles and five fire boats; and tested and repaired 175 ground ladders.
- The Hazardous Materials team now has 140 members trained to national standards. The team focuses on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear preparedness, and attended to an increased number of illegal laboratories and white-powder scares.
- The Technical Rescue team's 77 members amassed 2,229 training hour in high-angle rope rescue and confined-space rescue, and responded to 15 rescue incidents.
- VFRS has 93 members trained to operate Vancouver's two fire boats.
- The Training Division registered 1,600 students, scheduled 635 training classes, and attended 133 public events.
- The Human Resources Division hired 23 new recruits and participated in 10 career fairs, high school career days, as well as the student job experience program, Partners at Work.
- Fire hall crews completed 50 training exercises for the Dedicated Fire Protection System, which consists of saltwater pumping stations and earthquake-resistant pipelines for firefighting, particularly after a disaster.

In the community

- VFRS attended 174 community fairs, block parties and parades in 2005.
- The Emergency Preparedness Office trained 2,493 people and held nine team-training exercises for 110 students.
- The Public Education Office is responsible for teaching the community about fire safety and prevention and for public and media relations. The Office's Fire Safety House visited 90 schools reaching more than 5,000 students.
- In 2005, 4,793 people visited local fire halls on 237 separate tours.
- The Emergency Medical Services Division conducted 488 courses reaching 5,808 people.

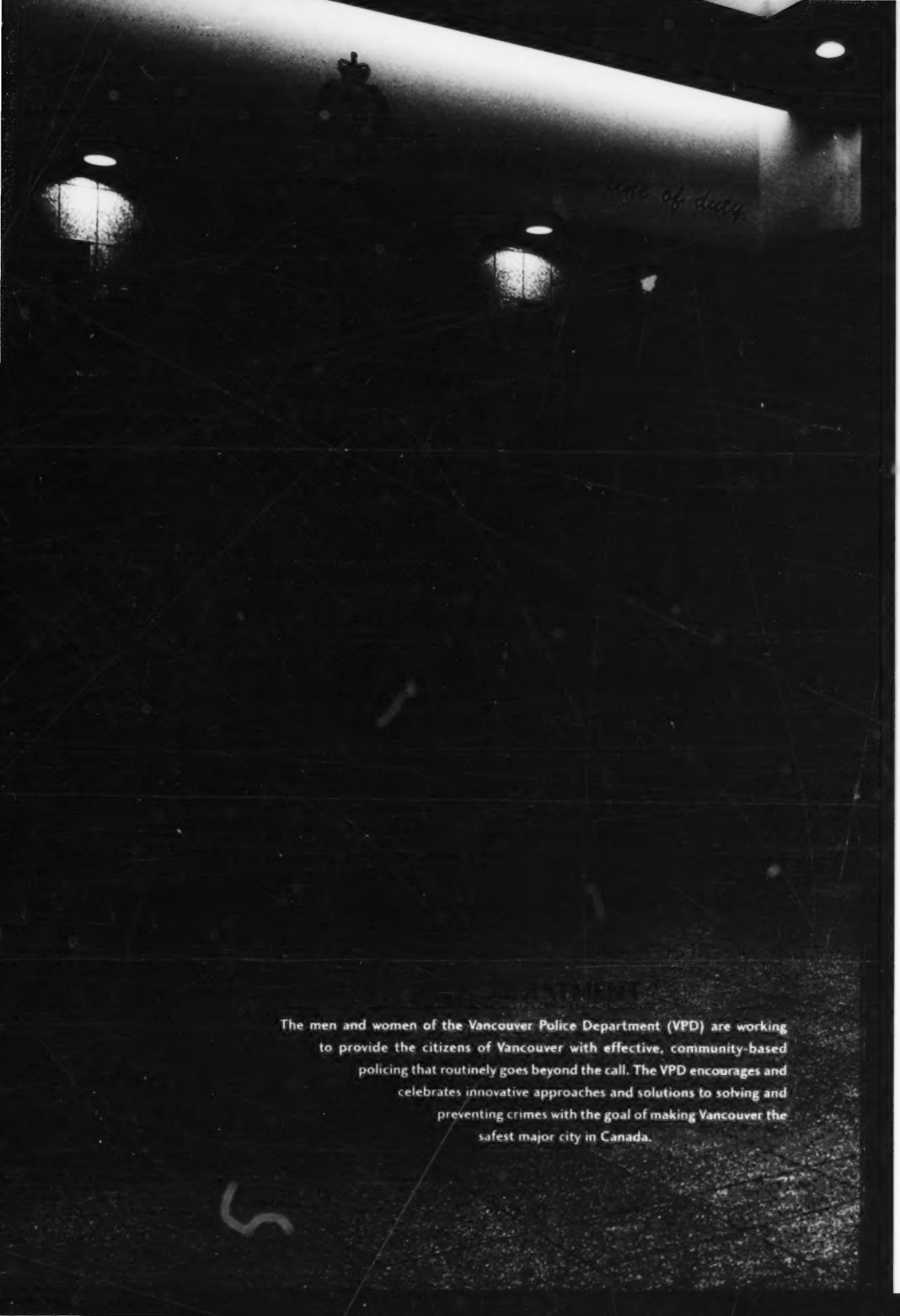
Firefighters of the Year

- Division Manager Steve Nordin and firefighter Rob Renning were named Firefighters of the Year by Vancouver Junior Board of Trade/Jaycees. Nordin was recognized for introducing new community programs such as free blood pressure/cholesterol monitoring, community-based CPR and first aid, and automobile child safety seat inspections. Renning was honoured for his work as a community volunteer and his commitment to bettering VFRS through his work ethic. He was also recognized for saving the life of a fisherman while on his time off.



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

The men and women of the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) are working to provide the citizens of Vancouver with effective, community based policing that routinely goes beyond the call. The VPD encourages and celebrates innovative approaches and initiatives to address and preventing crimes with the goal of making Vancouver the safest major city in Canada.



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Reducing crime

Residential break and enters continue to be among the top crime concerns of Vancouver citizens and one of the priorities of the VPD. In its 2004 Strategic Plan, the VPD outlined a plan to reduce residential property crime by 20 per cent over the next five years. The goal is already in reach.

- In 2005, residential break and enters were down 15 per cent; commercial break and enters were down 19 per cent; robberies down 10 per cent; and car thefts down 16 per cent.

Beyond the call

The VPD launched many innovative and successful programs to help reduce crime in 2005.

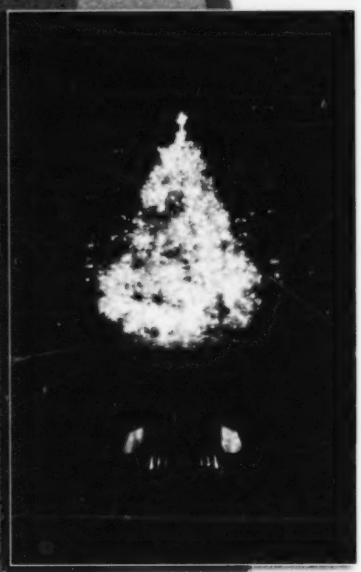
- Two successful undercover projects, Project Lucille and Project Raven, targeted fencing of stolen goods at pawn shops and convenience stores. These projects generated 70 criminal charges. All problem businesses received lengthy suspensions or business licence revocations.
- Project Haven was part of the VPD's efforts over the past two and half years to reduce street disorder, the open air drug market, violence and property crime in the Downtown Eastside. Undercover police posing as drug users used welfare cheques to rent rooms in three DTES hotels. The investigation revealed that owners, managers or desk clerks were dealing in stolen property and/or drugs and committing welfare fraud.
- Project Tadpole ran for eight days and resulted in 63 arrest warrants for drug traffickers. There were a total of 56 undercover buys.
- Project Turrets was another successful undercover drug operation. It produced 57 charges against 44 different drug dealers.
- Project Lava was designed to reduce the flow of stolen property within the city. Undercover officers took computers and bikes to stores that were not licensed to re-sell them. Out of 17 businesses, eight different stores bought the goods and were charged with bylaw violations.
- Operation Houdini targeted street-level crack dealers in the 500-block of West Pender. There were 15 buys made from 11 people.
- The Firearms Interdiction Team was created to reduce gang violence by seizing firearms and contraband from gang members. The team has arrested 171 people, issued 410 tickets, checked 3,644 gang or drug suspects and seized 15 handguns.

Crime prevention

The VPD is dedicated to reducing property crime in the city and helping citizens safeguard themselves and their homes and cars. With its community partners, the VPD launched one of the largest and most unique crime prevention programs of any police department in North America.

- The "Are You Helping Thieves?" campaign involved television, radio, print and transit shelter advertising, a brochure and a specially designed website. The campaign posed the provocative question "Are you helping thieves?" and featured actors portraying thieves thanking their victims for making the thefts possible. The campaign urged citizens to visit the police website at **vpd.ca** for security tips. Thousands of people visited the website; applications to join the Block Watch program more than doubled; and residential break and enters during the campaign fell by more than 20 per cent.
- The campaign was made possible with assistance from Rethink Adverting Agency, ICBC, Kwantlen University College and many others. Most of the city's media outlets generously agreed to run the ads for free as public service announcements. Total contributions provided at no cost to the VPD in resources, including talent and media space, approached $1 million.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION



THE VANCOUVER BOARD of Parks and Recreation supports the health and wellness of families and communities in our city. Beachcombing along Spanish Bank, picnicking in Stanley Park, inline skating on the Stanley Park Seawall, swimming at the community pool – these are all activities Vancouver residents enjoy for free or a very small cost through the Park Board.

The Park Board has had another busy year in 2005 – adding and improving parks and facilities; reaching out to our residents; and supporting our sustainability goals. Preparations for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games have included design concepts for several major recreation facilities that will provide legacies for citizens to stay active and healthy.

The Park Board balanced its Operating Budget in 2005, which was used to maintain and operate our community centres, pools, rinks and fitness centres; and keep our parks clean, green and safe and our gardens beautiful. The Capital Budget helped to rebuild aging community centres, create new playgrounds and redevelop some of our older parks. A new fundraising program added almost $1 million more towards parks and recreation improvements.

New parks

The Park Board opened two new neighbourhood parks in 2005.

- Rosemary Brown Park is located on an historic brewery site in Kitsilano. It features rose gardens, flower beds, trees and benches.
- Sahalli Park, located at 8th Avenue and Fraser Street, has a picnic site, playground, viewing knoll, lawns, trees and shrubs, and offers magnificent views of the North Shore mountains.

Park renewals

Residents played an active role in planning the renewal of several parks. Updates improve safety, add new amenities and respond to changing community interests.

- Pandora Park was upgraded with a new playground and walkways.
- The renewal for Falaise Park features a unique wetland garden.
- Kingcrest Park was updated with basketball courts, a new plaza and a playground with the support of the Friends of Kingcrest Park.
- Construction neared completion on a new skateboard facility, Hellenic garden and plazas for Quilchena Park.
- Nine children's playgrounds were redeveloped in 2005 with input from the public: Cariboo Park, Robson Park, CRAB Park at Portside, Charleson Park, Killarney Park, Pandora Park, Teaswamp Park, Trafalgar Park and Creekside Park.

Dog-friendly parks

- The Park Board continues to support dog owners, their pets and the health benefits this activity brings. Following public consultation, the Park Board added two new dog off-leash sites near the tennis courts in Stanley Park and in New Brighton Park. This brings the number of off-leash sites in the city to 31.

New and improved facilities

As part of the Park Board's continuing renewal plans for community centres, rinks and pools, a number of new and upgraded facilities were completed and opened in 2005, helping to meet our city's diverse leisure needs and interests.

- The Millennium Sports Centre, located on Nat Bailey Stadium Park, houses the Phoenix Gymnastics Club and Pacific Indoor Lawn Bowling Club.
- A new addition to the Champlain Heights Community Centre provides City-funded childcare spaces, a multi-purpose room and a bigger fitness centre.
- The renovated Renfrew Pool was the first step in the Park Board's aquatics renewal plan.
- The new Watermark Restaurant was opened on Kitsilano Beach in time for summer, along with a year-round concession, change and wash rooms and a life guard tower.

Getting greener

Sustainability means living and working in a way that does not harm the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The Park Board has taken a leadership role in addressing these issues for more than 20 years.

- The Park Board partnered with community groups, volunteers and more than 2,000 participants to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with tree plantings in Everett Crowley Park.
- With support from the community, the Park Board carried out an erosion-control project on the Kitsilano foreshore west of Kitsilano Pool.
- New water conservation measures including how we water our play fields, operate water features and keep our rinks cold were adopted, resulting in significant savings.

Arts connecting communities

- The Artist-in-Residence Program is a partnership between community centre associations and the Park Board. In 2005, there were four residencies:
  - Byron Hansen and Strathcona residents made flocks of birds from recycled materials.
  - Proximity Lab artists and Britannia Centre created the Happyland Carnival.
  - Kerrisdale residents painted banners with artists Pat Beaton and Andrea Taylor for Cyclone Taylor Arena.
  - Artists Maya Ersan and Jaimie Robson worked with youth to create multimedia installations for the Hastings corridor.
- A first time celebration, the "Rain or Shine Festival," was held in Stanley Park to showcase the Park Board's diverse recreation and leisure programs. The event included musical performances, recreational activities and umbrella decorating workshops.

"...I've been extremely impressed by the level of service provided in dealing with each issue.

Staff have always been courteous, willing to deal with each issue on its own merits, and extremely prompt in delivering a solution."

– Resident

Average daily visits to Park Board facilities: *22,000*

Average annual visits to Park Board facilities: *8 million*

Number of parks: *220*

Number of community centres: *23*

Average annual visits to parks: *14 million*

Number of playgrounds: *150*

Expanding community involvement

As the Park Board plans for the future, it works with many individuals, organizations and community groups on important developments in their neighbourhoods. Their involvement and feedback are invaluable in developing parks and facilities that best serve the city.

- The Park Board's Neighbourhood Matching Program provides funding to groups who want to improve their parks. In 2005, four projects were funded, including the Renfrew Collingwood Rooftop Garden that encourages the sharing of food among individuals, families, and the community.
- The Champlain Heights community helped to develop a management plan for Everett Crowley Park for the future care and protection of this neighbourhood park.
- Working with the City and community partners, the Park Board helped identify ways that support Oppenheimer Park and the community it serves.
- The Board held six of its meetings out in the community to make it easier for the public to attend.
- Open houses were held to consider China Creek Park South improvements; the 37th and Oak park site development; the future of Mount Pleasant Park, pool, community centre and child care space; the Marpole Park site design; and the new East Fraserlands Park plans.
- The Park Board initiated a consultation process for a new concept design for Pioneer Place (Pigeon Park) with members of the Downtown Eastside.
- One of our ParkPartners, the Jericho Stewardship Group, is bringing Jericho Park back to its natural state by organizing work parties to remove invasive blackberries and broom.

Supporting health and wellness

- Health, wellness and active lifestyles are important Park Board values. Active living means making physical activity a regular and central part of our lives. The Park Board has joined the province-wide Active Communities initiative and is developing new programs to support active lifestyles for all ages, interests and abilities.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Expanded hours at five locations

City Council approved a budget increase to the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) in 2005 to open year-round on Mondays at four additional branches (Kitsilano, Oakridge, Joe Fortes and Renfrew) and Sundays year-round at the Joe Fortes Branch. The Central Library is now also open on Sundays for one additional hour, from 12 to 5 pm.

Groundbreaking children's outreach program

In 2005, VPL introduced the first program of its kind in Canada aimed at significantly improving early childhood literacy. The new Ready to Read program features five children's outreach librarians who work with parents and caregivers to introduce language, vocabulary, and sound awareness to children, and help them to become comfortable and familiar with the rhythm and structure of language during their earliest years.

10th anniversary of Library Square

The Central Library marked its first 10 years at its Library Square location in downtown Vancouver in 2005. During 10 days of celebration, from May 24 to June 2, VPL welcomed thousands to the Central Library and offered special programs, readings and events for people of all ages. Highlights included a standing-room-only lecture by renowned Library Square architect Moshe Safdie, and the presentation of the Terasen Lifetime Achievement Award for 2005 to legendary B.C. and Canadian author Alice Munro. Library Square has had over 22 million visitors since its doors opened in 1995.

New public art project debuts

The first and second in a series of new public art installations were on display in the Library Square Promenade in 2005. *Overture* by Allyson Clay, installed in June, was the first work to be chosen for the Aperture Project, a series of large-scale photograph-based printed artworks that will be installed within three of the 13 large rectangular apertures on the third and fourth levels of the Library's Promenade. *Marginalia* by Kyla Mallett made its debut in December. Each work is installed at the Library for six months. VPL also announced the creation of Inside the Library, a 21-month program featuring temporary, library-specific art projects. Both programs are funded by the Library Square Endowment Fund, a $475,000 endowment created by Vancouver City Council in 1995.

Civic dialogue series premieres

Held at library branches across the city in October 2005, VPL's Speak Up series explored and discussed the subject of "Who Owns Knowledge". Hundreds of citizens attended community events at VPL branches and the Central Library and discussed the ownership of genes, copyright, cost of drugs, selling universities, and the value of Open Source and Open Access information technology. Speak Up dialogues and events will be held at VPL again in 2006.

Writer in Residence

Maggie de Vries, VPL's first Writer in Residence and award-winning author of *Missing Sarah*, joined the Library for a four-month residency in the fall of 2005. During her residency, de Vries divided her time between drafting her next novel and participating in Library and community events. She also provided mentorship to emerging writers and conducted workshops in the Downtown Eastside.

In 2005:

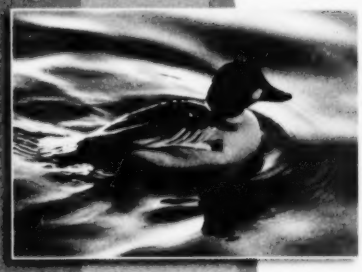
VPL materials borrowed: **9,848,381**

Number of visits: **6,642,265**

Percentage of Vancouver citizens with VPL card: **51%**

VPL holdings: over **2.49 million items**

Reference questions answered: **988,713**

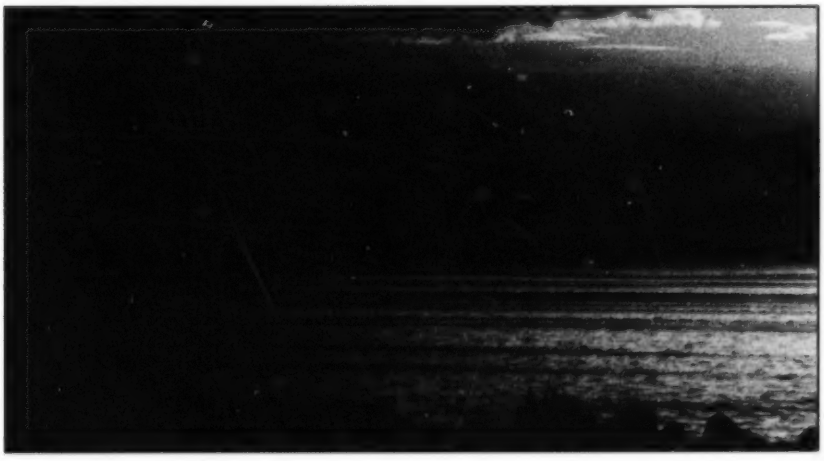


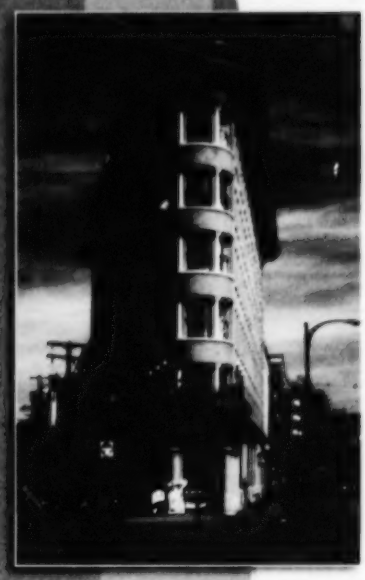
WINNERS' CIRCLE

THE CITY OF Vancouver's innovative programs and staff have garnered the City a long list of awards and accolades again in 2005, including:

- The City of Vancouver's website – **vancouver.ca** – was a winner in the best e-government category of the United Nations World Summit Awards (WSA), a global contest for selecting and promoting the world's best electronic/online content and applications. **Vancouver.ca** was deemed as an excellent example of a government website that helps inform, educate and engage citizens by providing enriched, value-added content.
- The Vancouver Urban Search and Rescue Team completed a successful five-day effort in areas around New Orleans, Louisiana that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina in September. The 46-member team, made up of staff from the City of Vancouver's Fire, Police and Engineering departments, and from the B.C. Ambulance Service took part in search and rescue operations just outside New Orleans, which resulted in the rescue of 119 people. The team received national and American news coverage for their efforts, and numerous e-mails of thanks, many from U.S. citizens.
- The Vancouver Agreement was a recipient of a United Nations Public Service Award in the category for "improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the public service". The Agreement was cited for its innovative partnerships between government agencies, and with community groups and business.
- The Vancouver Agreement's management team received a Partnership Award from APEX, a national association for federal public service executives. The award recognizes the Vancouver Agreement management team for their role in improving the Downtown Eastside.
- Dave Rudberg, General Manager of Olympic Operations (and formerly General Manager of Engineering Services) is the recipient of a 2005 President's Award by the Association of Professional Engineers for his foresight, executive ability and leadership during a period of remarkable growth and construction.
- Two of the City's Hastings Institute programs received 2005 Canada Post Literacy Awards. The awards recognized the Municipal Workplace Language Program which meets the needs of the City's diverse employee population; and Generation Y, an employee-driven program that helps troubled youth with work experience and literacy.

- The City won an Award of Excellence (Honourable Mention) from the Planning Institute of British Columbia for the Kingsway and Knight Neighbourhood Centre Housing Area Plan, which aims to add 800 more dwellings and improve the livability of the area.
- The City received an EcoSoft Green Seal award for purchasing towel and tissue paper products with 100 per cent recovered paper fibre.
- The Vietnamese Cultural Day Committee presented an Appreciation Award to the City of Vancouver for its support to the Vietnamese community, including initiatives such as the multilingual phone line service.
- The Park Board along with PWL Partnership Landscape Architects were honoured with the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects Regional Merit Award for Phase II of Harbour Green Park.
- The cultivation of hardy palms on English Bay garnered a Pacific Northwest Palm and Exotic Plant Society's Landscaping Award for outstanding achievement.
- The Park Board's public website won an Award of Merit from the Canadian Public Relations Society for strategic development and relevance to overall communications objectives.
- Stanley Park's Cob House earthen architecture structure was presented an Award of Excellence for Innovation by the Vancouver Regional Construction Association.
- Two VPL librarians were selected by the prestigious *Library Journal* – the New York-based professional journal for library sciences in North America – as two of its "movers and shakers" for 2006. Sandra Singh, VPL's Director of Branches East and Outreach Services, and Annette De Faveri, a VPL librarian and National Coordinator of Working Together: Library-Community Connections Project, were chosen from nominations throughout North America, and were two of only three Canadians selected.





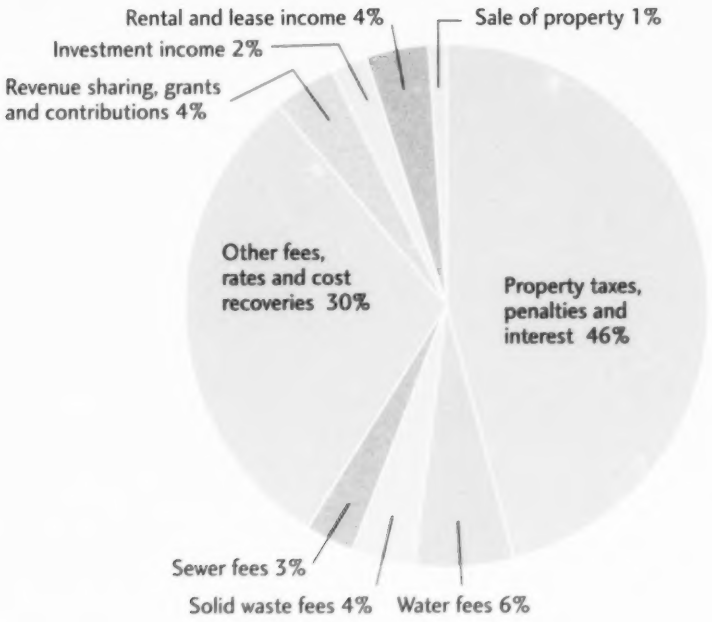
CITY OF VANCOUVER
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31 ($000s)	2005	2004
FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Cash	$ 70,157	$ 66,638
Temporary investments	720,430	555,974
Accounts receivable and accrued interest	64,813	50,095
Local improvement receivable	16,375	18,614
Property taxes receivable	12,391	19,890
Lease agreement receivable	51,581	53,171
	935,747	764,382
PHYSICAL ASSETS		
Inventory	12,159	12,091
Capital assets	8,180,974	7,274,586
	8,193,133	7,286,677
	$ 9,128,880	$ 8,051,059
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 251,371	$ 225,233
Mortgage and loan agreements	70,235	68,493
Long term debt	566,026	472,332
Deferred income	53,250	43,431
	940,882	809,489
MUNICIPAL EQUITY		
Equity in capital assets	7,597,434	6,786,453
Reserve for debt retirement	167,864	139,630
Reserves	294,826	243,754
Fund balances	234,692	172,530
Obligations to be funded from future revenues	(106,818)	(100,797)
	8,187,998	7,241,570
	$ 9,128,880	$ 8,051,059

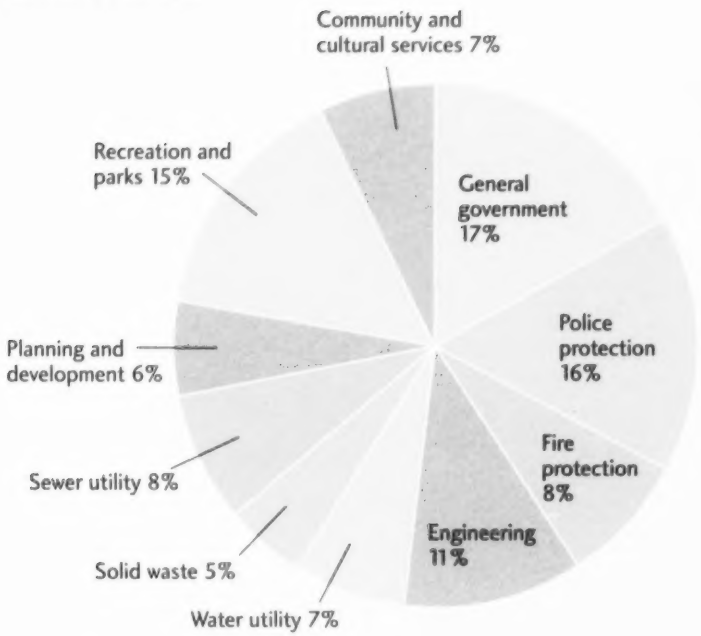
CITY OF VANCOUVER
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

Years ended December 31 ($000s)	2005	2004
REVENUE		
Property taxes, penalties and interest	$ 482,323	$ 465,447
Water fees	67,262	61,412
Solid waste fees	38,629	36,970
Sewer fees	34,103	32,951
Other fees, rates and cost recoveries	315,923	262,039
Revenue sharing, grants and contributions	46,143	14,781
Investment income	23,770	21,470
Rental and lease income	37,959	37,782
Sale of property	5,967	17,722
	1,052,079	950,574
EXPENDITURES		
General government	174,586	131,715
Police protection	165,336	158,412
Fire protection	79,030	75,744
Engineering	109,424	109,949
Water utility	67,362	62,338
Solid waste	46,457	37,792
Sewer utility	83,914	72,417
Planning and development	61,528	58,725
Recreation and parks	151,082	139,740
Community and cultural services	73,351	66,629
	1,012,070	913,461
NET REVENUE	40,009	37,113
DEBT, TRANSFERS AND OTHER		
Debt		
Principal repayments	(29,165)	(26,111)
New issues	124,601	103,903
Net transfers to reserves	(79,305)	(65,355)
Change in obligations to be funded from future revenue	6,022	14,292
	22,153	26,729
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES	62,162	63,842
FUND BALANCES		
Beginning of year	172,530	108,688
End of year	$ 234,692	$ 172,530

REVENUE SOURCES


Rental and lease income 4%
Sale of property 1%
Investment income 2%
Revenue sharing, grants and contributions 4%
Other fees, rates and cost recoveries 30%
Property taxes, penalties and interest 46%
Sewer fees 3%
Solid waste fees 4%
Water fees 6%

EXPENDITURES



CITY OF VANCOUVER

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